BYAAAH!!

NO WEBSITE
NO MIRC
NO E-MAIL

PROJECT: KAGETORA
VOLUME: 11
SCANNED: OCT 08

FOR THE FANS BY A FAN. REMEMBER, IF YOU LIKE IT, GO BUY IT!
PAGES HAVE BEEN CROPPED TO GET RID OF THE GUTTER,
BUT IT'S STILL VISIBLE,
AS I REALLY DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT THE QUALITY.
SCANNED) CROPPED) CLEANED) SAVED.
ALSO I'VE DONE A QUICK JOB ON ANY DOUBLE PAGE SPREADS,
JUST TO MAKE IT EASIER TO READ.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ATTEMPT, TOUGH SHIT.
IF YOU WISH TO SHARE THIS, FEEL FREE.
ALL I ASK YOU LEAVE THE PAGES AND TAGS INTACT.
APART FROM THAT I DONT CARE.
ANYHOW ENJOY!

NOTES:

BEEN TOO BUSY PLAYING PS3
LATELY, SO I'VE BEEN LAZY.
SOI'M PROBABLY A FEW BOOKS
SHORT THIS TIME.
AND SINCE ITS OCTOBER,
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

RU

デルレイ

KAGETORA

11

AKIRA SEGAMI

Ballantine Books

DEL REY

OVER TOO SOON?

Kagetora has finally won the heart of Yuki, his master's daughter. Since their love is forbidden, they've kept it secret. But now it's all coming apart. Having declared Yuki's martial arts training complete, Yuki's mother has ordered Kagetora to go home. Will his duty as a ninja put an end to a love that took years to build? Find out in this **final volume!**

INCLUDES SPECIAL EXTRAS AFTER THE STORY, PLUS A SPECIAL BONUS STORY SHOWING AN EARLY VERSION OF THE MANGA!

BYAAAH SCANS

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11
KAGETORA
AKIRA SEGAMI

KAGETORA
カゲトラ

Akira Segami

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KAGETORA

A Note from the Author

Thank you everyone.
This is the final volume.
I feel I was able to draw
everything I wanted in
KAGETORA.
I just hope this manga
was satisfying for all
readers...

Segami

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When you address someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

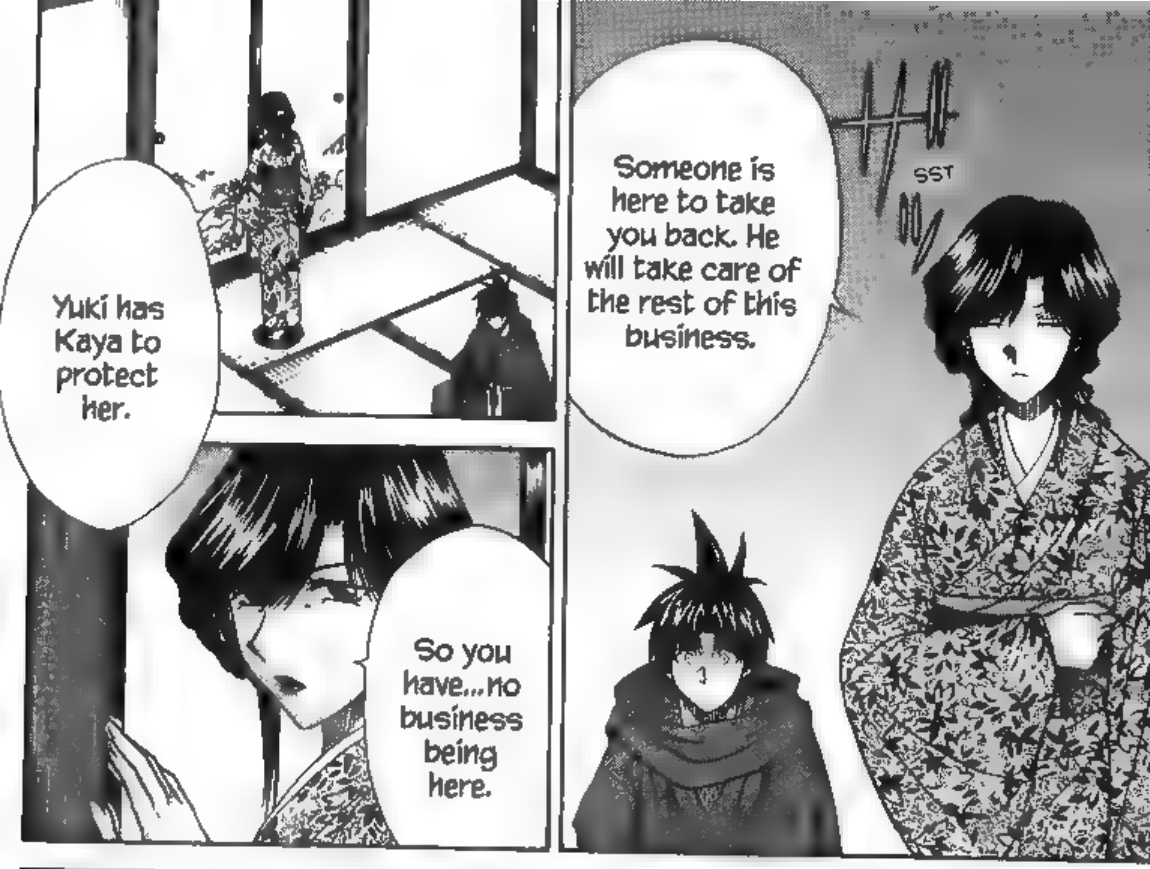
-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

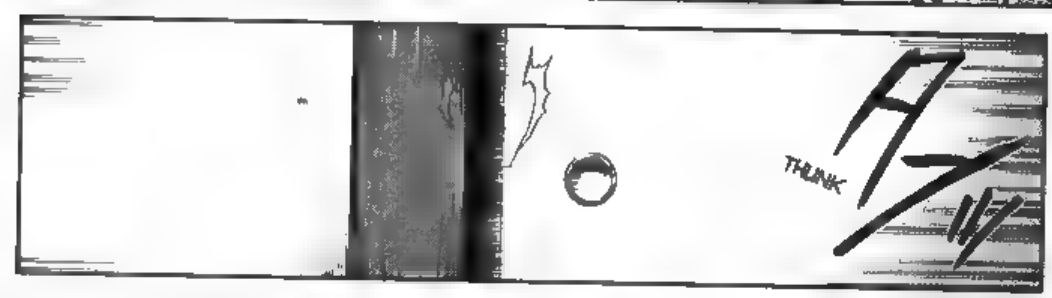
KAGETORA
カゲトラ
11
Akira Segami

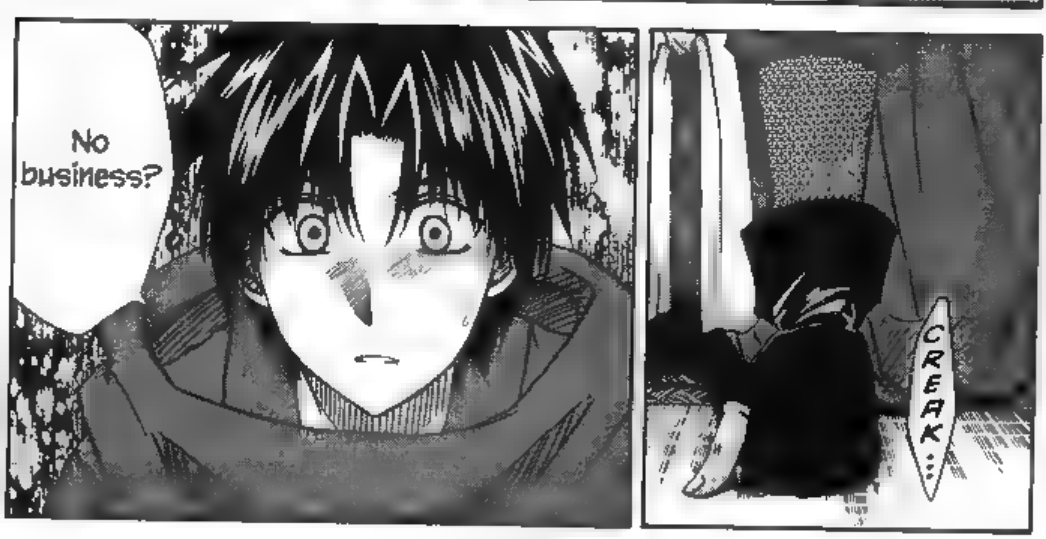
KAGETORA
カゲトラ
#48 One Night Only

Kagetora.
Your duty here is done.
Return to Hoorai Village and await your next assignment.
Huh...
This is an order.
You are to leave the Toudou house immediately.

...needed anymore?
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
I'm not...
TH-THUMP
But I...
Kagetora!
WOOSH!
You have completed the task.
The mission assigned to you was martial arts instruction.
You have no reason to stay here, correct?
You dare to talk back to me?
.....!


Yuki has Kaya to protect her.
So you have...no business being here.
Someone is here to take you back. He will take care of the rest of this business.
SST


THUNK


No business?
CREAK...

FLINCH
Hey.
I guess you're done talking.
Big brother...
Since Father is away, I came instead.
"Kagetora of Hoorai, thank you for your service."
"Your duty is over... return to the village."
I already packed your belongings.
All that's left to do is leave.
No...

I don't intend to return to the village.
Because you don't want to be apart from Hime.
No?
Did you think I didn't know?
WOOSH!
ばっ!
!?
That's why I don't want to leave her side.
Even if it is an order...
That's right...
You like Yuki Hime.
And Yuki Hime feels the same way... right?

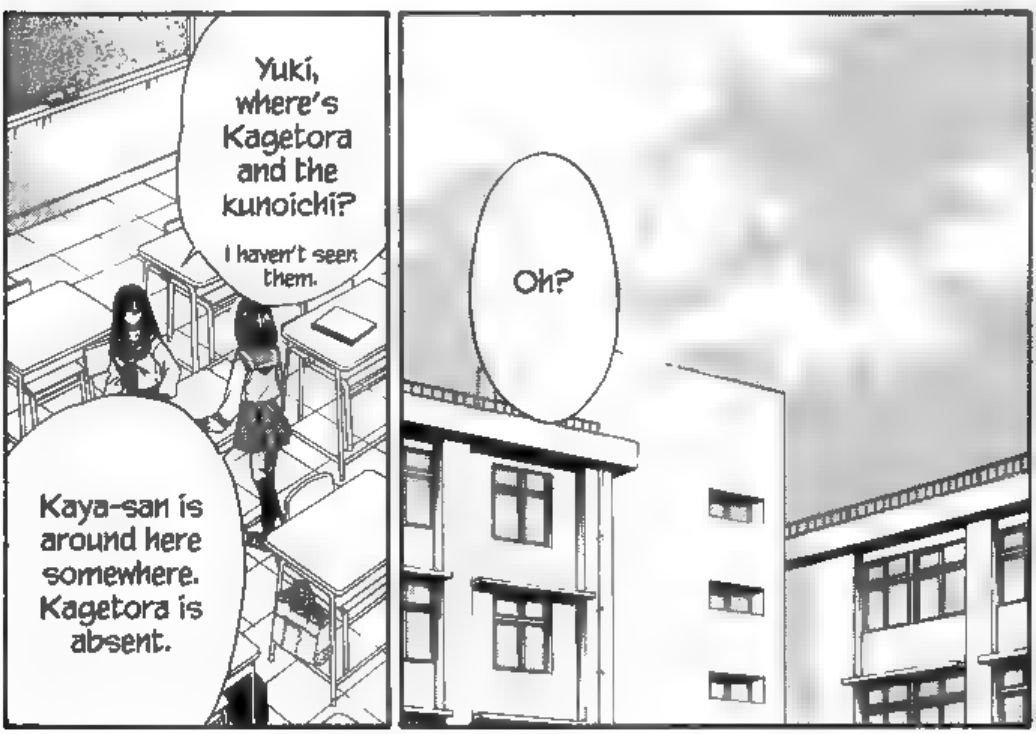
WHAP!
I'm not playing around!
I seriously love...
Playtime is over.
GRAB
Stop barking.
Brat.
Return to the village.

You are just a ninja.
A ninja who does not obey orders has no reason to live.
THUD
Ugh.
Wait...
POOF
WIPE
You should know that.
I'll give you one day.
After that... we'll take you back by force.
Under-stand?

Playtime is over.
.....
You have no business being here.
THUMP
Hime...
.....
Kagetora?

Did you need me?
No! Nothing!
I'm talking to myself.
SLIDE
I thought I heard him.
Huh?
.....
SILENCE
She can hear anything....
That scared me.
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
SLIDE
THUNK
Excuse me.
Okay then.
.....
THUMP
I finally got together with Kagetora...
...but it's hard for us to be alone.
If people find out, Kagetora will have to leave.
I guess I have to endure it.

As long as Kagetora stays by my side...
I can endure it no matter how miserable it is.


Yuki, where's Kagetora and the kunoichi?
I haven't seen them.
Kaya-san is around here somewhere. Kagetora is absent.
Oh?

I wonder if he's sick?
I only heard from Kaya-san, so I haven't seen him.
Yeah, he's not feeling well.

Kagetora's absent?

Then lend it to me first.
Oh well, I'll lend it to him another time.
See you.

Can he use a DVD player?
I wonder about that.
I brought him a special DVD....
Oh well.
Don't bring that to school...
You're here to study.

It's porn.
I'm assuming.
Maybe I should've taken it for him.
Don't.

He has you.
But Kagetora doesn't need it.
Huh?

Huh!? Really!?
A special DVD for boys is usually porn.

!!
TH-THUMP
SCREECH
You guys are going out, right?
WHISPER
Calm down!
WADDA
WADDA
Wait, no...
How come you know...
I mean...
Idiots...
I'm sure they haven't noticed though.
They're idiots.
Then you bring something, too.
I have good ones, you know.
How did you know?
Just by looking. I know about the incident with Kujou, too.
EASY NOW
SIT

Yeah...
I'm on your side no matter what!
Don't worry, I won't tell anyone.
But Kagetora should be happy.
He's liked you for a long time.
I don't know the details... but you have to keep it secret, right?
What!?
You didn't know!?
I can't believe that.
...Really?
My name is Kagetora of Hoorai.
I'm here to serve as your martial arts instructor....
...At first I thought of him like a big brother.

Then I realized...
...that I liked him.
But... he was always by my side.
Protecting me.
And I came to think of him as more than a brother.
And now...
...I want him to stay with me.
SQUEEZE
ギュ〜ッ
Oh, you're so cute!
Kagetora's a lucky guy!

WHACK!
But Kiritani, you're practically half guy...
GAH
It's not normal to show it to us.
Yuki doesn't like it either.
What? This is perfectly normal!
See?
Secret girls' stuff.
You guys look like you're having fun.
What? What are you talking about?
No perverted guys allowed.
Not used to it
Dude, if I were Kagetora, you'd be lunchmeat.
Ow! That really hurt!
He really surprised us at first...
Using ninja moves and all.
...but now we're good friends.
HA? HA? HA?
That hurt.
Actually, Kagetora really lightened up.
Yeah, he was bad our first year.

.....
Hey, you're whispering again!
That's very suspicious.
Shut up.
Oops.
Shh, Aki-chan!
WHISPER ひそ ひそ WHISPER
Although you're more than friends.
Kagetora...
I wonder what he's doing now...

There's nothing to think about.
.....
WAKE UP
You're still thinking about it?
...the answer is no.
If you think you, a *ninja*, can make Yuki *Hime* happy...
That doesn't mean...
...you can make her happy.
...Hime.
I love...

BAM!
It's better if you stay away.
Shut up...
I know that already.
BAM!
Whoa!
That's good.
You only have until the end of today.

He must hate me a lot right now.
sigh.
...rgh...

I'm home.
Welcome home, Hime.
Kaya-san, I'll see you later.
Sure.
TMD TMD?
Oh.
Kagetora!

.....
I was worried because I heard you weren't feeling well.
Are you okay?
Hime...
If you want her to be happy...
TOUCH
You don't look too good.
Are you very sick?
Do you have a fever?
I guess not...
Who knows?
(≧▽≦) SMILE
Hime, let's go somewhere.
Huh?
Where?
.....

Kagetora!
TUG
Huh!?
What do you mean?
We've never been here before.
GLANCE
I wonder why he wanted to come here?
Local Trains Schedule
Weekdays
Saturday
It's so late.
...It is.

I wonder what's wrong?
He was so quiet on the train, too.
I couldn't ask him anything.

GLANCE
He's quiet again...
.....

Did I think coming to a place where no one knows us...
...will change the fact that we can't be together?

Going anywhere won't change anything.

.....
I wonder what I'm doing...

Achoo!
Uh...

I know.
It's really cold today.
Oh...

Oh.
I'm fine. Don't worry.
It's just a little chilly.
GASP
Hime... did you catch cold!?

Are you okay? You're acting... strange today.
You're not talking much...
No...
It's really nothing.
If that's the case, that's fine, but...
...Oh?
That's right... she's not even wearing a jacket.
Kage-tora ...?
But I brought her out here in this cold.
Can't return...
Huh...
We can't return to Tokyo.
Kagetora! Look... The last train left.

You guys miss the train?
We have a lot of those.
Did you want to stay at our inn?
It's a weekday, so we have rooms open.
We have hot springs, too.
Hot Springs Morita Inn
00-XXO
Hey!
!
Right, Kagetora?
Uh... no, it's okay.
Huh?
Let's go, Hime.

Are you two from Tokyo?
It's colder here, isn't it?
It might start snowing soon.
Really?
Yes...we're near the mountains.
I heard you missed the last train?
The driver told me....
Oh
Yes.
We just lost track of time.
By the way...
Yes?

Um...
Actually...
Oh, because you're so young...
Tee hee
Yes, we are.
TH-THUMP
ドキッ
Are you newlyweds?
Huh!?
Thank you.
.....
SPEECHLESS
She's such a cute wife!
I knew it!
.....
.....
I will come back later.
TUNK
You didn't come in time for dinner...
...but the hot springs are open twenty-four hours.

Since we're young, it would look bad for us to be out like this.
Sorry to make you lie.
I'm okay with it.
...And...
...I wanted to say it, too.
SMILE
.....!
BLUSH
Oh.
Is he the type to say these things?
That surprised me...
Yes.
Oh, I see!
Ha ha ha
Okay.
I get it.

But...
GLANCE
Hm... should I call Mom?
She's probably worried...
BITE
PEEP
WOOSH
TURN
.....
You newlyweds can go take a bath or something!
WOOSH!
FLINCH
I came to lay the futon.
SLIDE
Excuse me!

DRRRSH
Oh...
I'm going to go to the hot springs then!
Oh!
.....
Um...
Oh...
I'm soooo nervous...
Ha ha...
Newlyweds
.
.
.
Newlyweds...
Being called that...
I wonder if Kagetora's okay...

It'd be nice...
...if it were true...
Oh...
KOSUI
Is Kagetora not back yet?
Huh? It's dark.

But these are too close together...
Hmm.
Oh yeah, they laid it out for us.
.....
CLCK
TH-THUMP
Kagetora?

Hime...
Oh, you're back.
It was dark so I didn't think you'd be here.
I'm sorry.
Kagetora...
Hime?
SIT
Is something the matter?
That's not true.
You're not acting normally.

Huh...
You told me before...
...to let you know if something's up.
You're not really smiling....
I'm...
...your girlfriend, right?
...Uh...

SQUEEZE
It's nothing....
Don't worry...
Okay.
I believe you...
Really?
Yes.
Really.

I've always...
...wanted to say it, too.
That I'm your girlfriend...
.....
Thank you.
.....
Huh...
TUG
GRAB
I should make tea!
Hn
WOOSH!
Oh, I know.

Hime...
.....
SLAP

Kagetora...
I'm glad...
I met you.
Let's go home...
...on the first train tomorrow.
Okay...

But for now...
Let me...
...stay here with you.
Okay...

They?
I think they'll have a little compas-sion.
Do you think we'll get in trouble?
We did come home on the first train...
We'll be fine.
It's nothing.
Let's go...
Yeah.

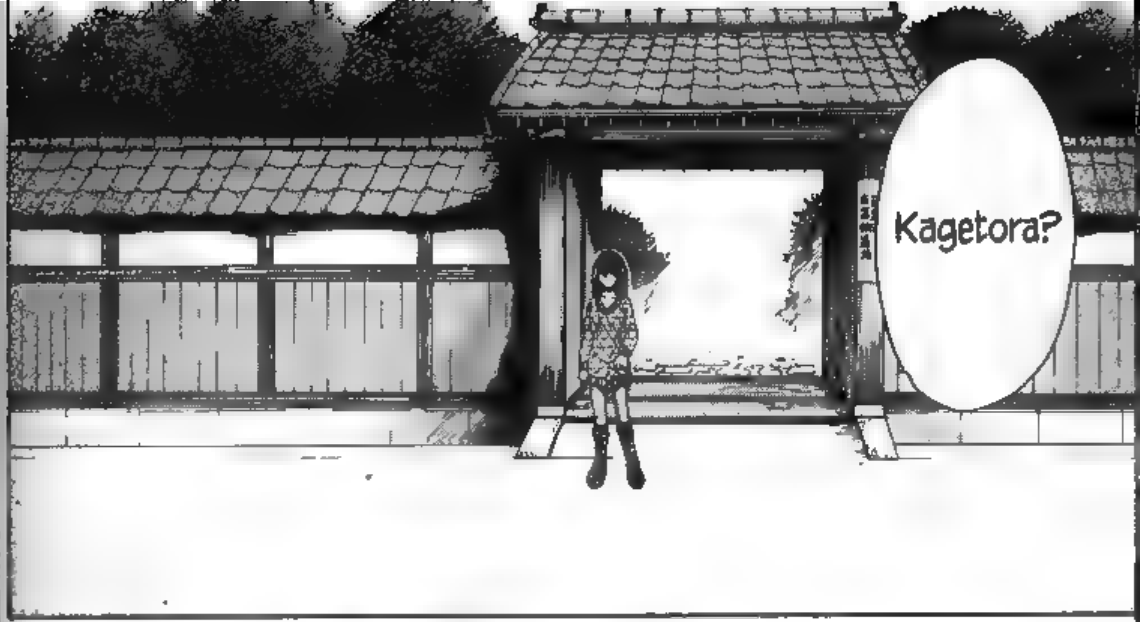
Good-bye...
WOOOSH
Huh?

WOOOSH
Oh...
The wind...

Kagetora?

KAGETORA カゲトラ

#49 This Is an Order


Kagetora?

Where... did you go?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

What did he mean?
Good-bye?
Good-bye...

SLIDE
DASH
EMPTY
Why!?

Kagetora!?
CREAK...
What are you doing here?
Oh...
Kagetora's gone!!
Mom.
What?
Finished his oyakume duty?
He probably returned to the village.
He finished his oyakume duty, so it's only natural.

Oh...
Kagetora didn't say anything either...
I didn't know anything about that!
But for now...
Let me...
...stay here with you.
He's quiet again....
I wanted to say it.
...I met you.
I'm glad...

Kaya and I will oversee your training.
Kaya alone should be enough as an oyakume ninja.
...Oh...
SLUMP
No!
My oyakume ninja is Kagetora.
That's not up to you to decide.
It is up to me.
THUNK
You need to forget about Kagetora.

.....
I can't forget about him....
I can't do that....
Kagetora...
I heard Kagetora-dono returned.
He completed his oyakume duty well....

If you call that good hands...
I wonder...
Then the Kazama household is in good hands now.
Ha ha...
Yes, he has.
#17
RUSTLE
.....
#17
RUSTLE
Why did we return to the village?
KYE KYE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
.....

KYE...
Are you serious?
My oyakume duty is done.
That's why.
Of course.
Ninjas are here to follow the master's orders.
It doesn't matter if he's serious or not.
I understand. That's why I'm here.
We cannot act on our own emotions.
You understand that, right?

If you'll excuse me...
Are you going out?
SST
If you're leaving the house... wipe that smile off of your face.
It looks pretty fake.
You're not really smiling....
THUNK
Geez.
Now he hates me even more...
KYE KYE!!
Hun?
WHUMP

WADDA
KYE
KYE KYE!!
WADDA
If only your master had the same energy as you.
You're so faithful.
PUNCH
KYE! KYE KYE KYE!
Kosuke
PUNCH
Do you have something to say...
DASH
WOOF WOOF
THROW
Nachi.
But I think there could've been other ways around this.
Not really...
Taka?
I know that.
But I think she could've considered their feelings....
It was the master's choice.

Anything else?
No.
Look, the current master said...
"Kagetora's services as an oyakume ninja are no longer needed. He awaits his next assignment."
PLOMP
STOMP
STOMP
That's a great compliment...
You're such an obedient ninja.
HMPH
You're being just like Father!
I guess Taka's still naïve, too...
Gee.

CLANG
Let's call it a day.
We can't train if you're not focused.
Oh...
ROLL
You haven't slept much either.
Does Kagetora...
...mean that much to you?
TWITCH
A master cannot get attached to ninjas.

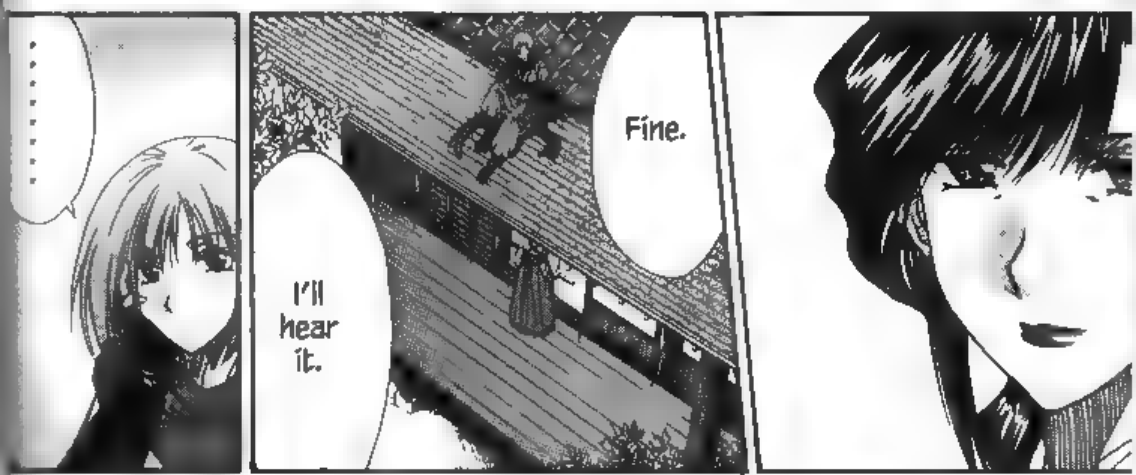
I want Kagetora.
I don't want...
...a ninja by my side.
You're wrong....
But...
...it has to be Kagetora.
DRIP
I'm sorry, Kaya-san.
If Kagetora's not here...
...I can't work hard.

A Hoorai ninja can never disobey a master's order.
That goes for me as well as Kagetora.
Hime-sama...
If a ninja disobeys, it affects his whole family as well.
If that happened...
...you'd be sad, right?
Even the *previous* master, Sagiri-sama, cannot go against the *current* master.

Do you understand?
Yes.
It's all about the *current* master's wishes.
Not even Grandma?
...Oh...
Excuse me!

Dressed for the occasion, aren't you...
SST
Yuki?

I have a request...
of the *current* master of the Toudou family, Saya Toudou-dono!!


.....
I'll hear it.
Fine.

Hime came here once, too...
It's been a while...
Kagetora...
I understand. That's why I'm here.
I thought if I came here, I could forget.
But all I can think about is Hime....

But I still...
I don't understand.
At all.
RUFFLE
I thought I'd accepted the matter.
An ema...
Hime wrote something before...
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
What did she wish for?

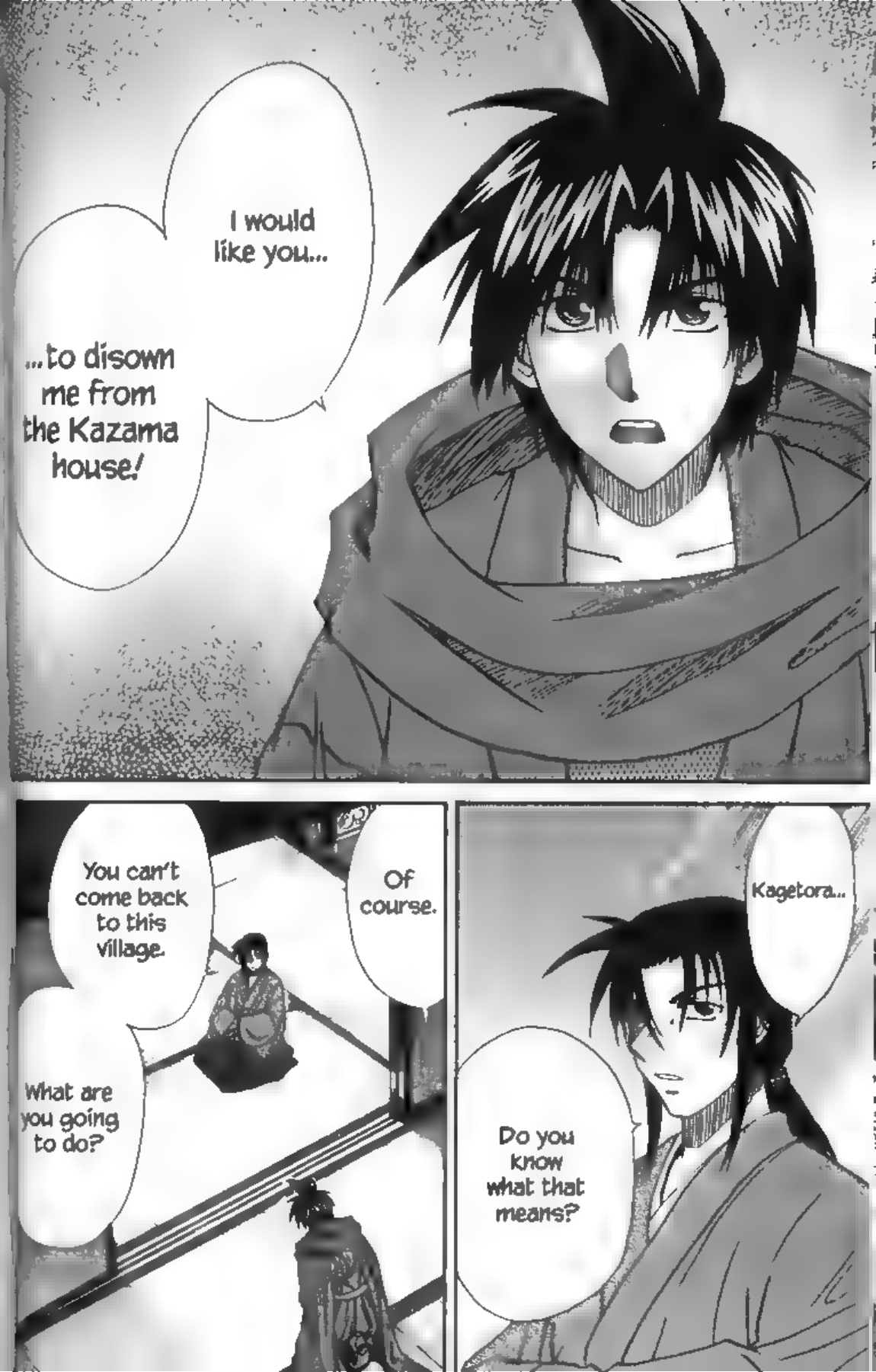
I hope Kagetora will be on duty to protect me forever. Yuki
I want to become strong and protect Hime, please. Kagetora
CLANK
...Ugh...
.....
...About... me...
Tora!

But you weren't at your house.
I heard that you were back in the village.
I thought you'd be here.
Sakuya...
You left her there, huh?
Yuki-chan...
I...
.....
We were both ninjas from the day we were born.
To not be a ninja is to throw away your identity.
It was impossible from the beginning.
You can't do anything about it.

くしゃっ
RUFFLE
くるん
TURN
Why take the thorny road if you don't have to?
Right?
Throwing your identity away...
Isn't it?
Thanks, Sakuya.
But...I've already decided.
I know now...
...what I have to do.
I won't lie to myself anymore.

Good luck...
...Tora.
.....
He's so impatient.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
Tora...
POOF
Kagura!
FLAP FLAP
Tora will be fine.
He's the man I love!
I guess your master's worried, too.
GIGGLE GIGGLE
SQUAWK
Tell him there's nothing to be worried about.

Kagetora?
What did you want?
You're back, Father.
Good timing.
I have a request.
ZWISH
Kazama household head ninja, Tenshu Kazama-dono!
A request?


I would like you...
...to disown me from the Kazama house!
You can't come back to this village.
Of course.
What are you going to do?
Kagetora...
Do you know what that means?

I'll become an ordinary man.
To be disowned by the Kazama clan...
...means you'd quit being a ninja.
Do you think...
...I'd allow that?
SST

I knew you would object.
SST
But still...
...I won't give up.
SST
!?
Hold on.
You have a guest.
Brother Shirou?
Sorry to bother you, but there's an emergency.
A guest?
Go to the mansion of the village chief.

Huh...
Master!?
The master of the Toudou house.
What does the master want with me?
I don't know...
THUD!
Come on! Move it!
She said it's an emergency!
.....
Shiroumaru.
...have something to say to her!
...but I...

Sorry for the trouble.
He hated you for it, right?
I didn't think he'd ask me to disown him...
Sigh.
...No.
GRIN
It's cool. It's my duty as the eldest.
Besides...
...I am most like you.
A perfect substitute.
Taka told me that.
...You don't like that?
HA HA
Who knows?

Master.
I, Kagetora of Hoorai, have arrived.

I don't know what you need.
But I have something...
...to tell you, Master.
.....
From this day forward...
...I am cutting ties with the Kazama clan...
...and throwing away my status as a ninja.

...we are master and servant no more.
This means...
!?
THUNK
SST
Please excuse me!
Hold it!

Kagetora of Hoorai.
...to quit being a ninja.
I will not allow you...
Huh...

This is an order.
You must stay, not as an oyakume ninja but as Kagetora Kazama...

...and stay with me forever!

Just for today...
...I am the master of the Toudou family.
Hime...
How did you do that?
I challenged Mom to a match....
TOUCH...
BITE

Your answer?
Getting bruised on the way?
.....
.....
Yes!
...Uh...

Hime...
Why did you disappear...
...without telling me?
Don't do it again.
I won't.

I'll never leave your side again.
Yuki...
Forever, okay?

Yes...
Gee whiz.

I guess everything is settled.
Good.
We're sort of spying...
Hiding behind the doors
It was a long road to get there.
Long and difficult.
It was the master's idea.
SOB SOB
...and waited to see how they would react.
The previous master was in on it, too.
So she pretended to end the oyakume duty...
She wanted to see how serious Yuki Hime was.
But she sure is sneaky.
Testing her own daughter.
Master is probably a sadist.
The Toudou women are strong.
Hime-sama is pretty strong inside, too.
She challenged her own mother...
She got bruised...
...but she still beat her.

I think so, too.
Or else it would've been impossible.
I'm sure she went easy at the end.
Master.
And she got the authority to act as current master for a day.
Good work.
But I was hated all this time for this.
That's true.
We've stuck around too long.
Okay...I think we should leave.
Kagetora is in good hands....
...you can rest in peace now.
Mother...
Good job, Shiroumaru....

Hime.
Do you want to go visit my mother later?
I want to let her know...
...about you...

Yeah.
Let's take the Kazama cherry blossoms and visit.
I also...
...have many things to say.

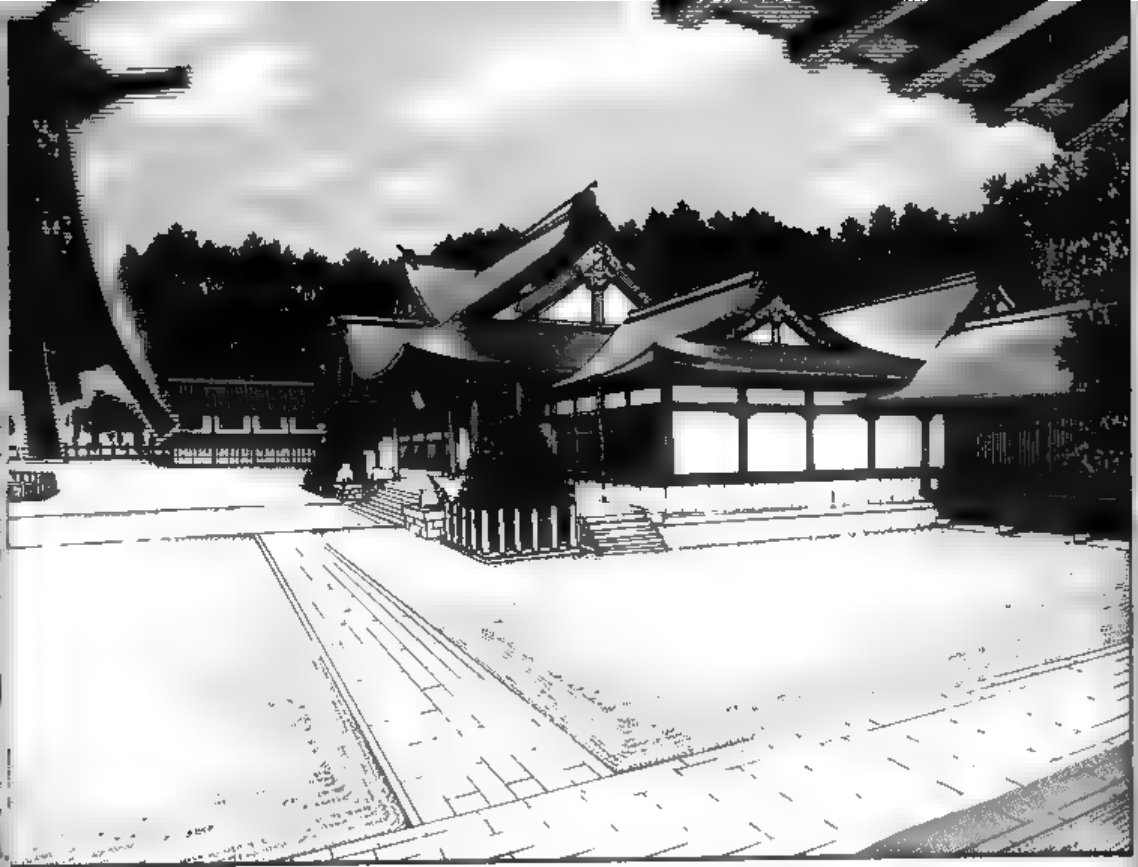
Hey.
Shhh.
What's that?
It's okay.
It's a secret? You'll get in trouble.
Oh.
An album?
ひょこっ
PEEK

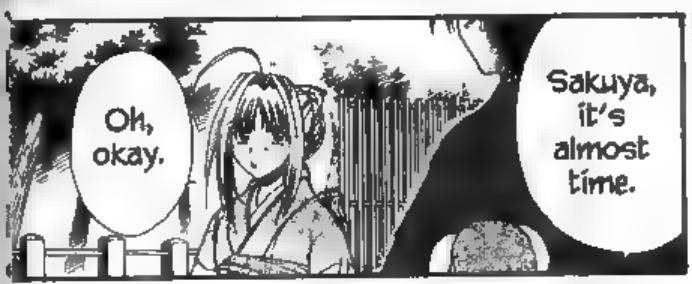
KAGETORA
カゲトラ
#50 Together Forever...

Side Note

These are the songs I was listening to while I was working on the final chapter.↓
Kobukuro, "Together Forever"
Angela Aki, "This Love"
Lyrico, "Flower of Miracles"
Emiko Shiratori, "Amazing Grace"
And others.
The Kobukuro song is where I got the title. (laugh)
I listened to Angela Aki throughout all three chapters in this volume, and I was listening to Lyrico throughout all of KAGETORA. Maybe if you listen, while reading the book, it'll be more dramatic... (laugh)

Segami




Oh, okay.
Sakuya, it's almost time.

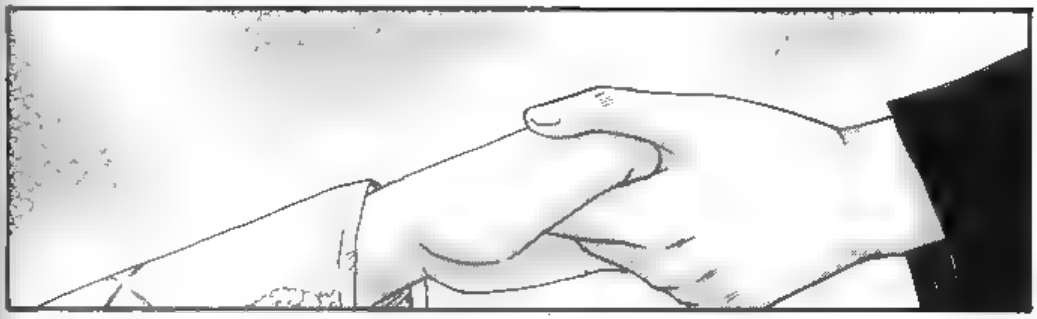
What a beautiful day....

Yeah.
He's so nervous, it's funny.
HEH HEH
Tora's ready?

It's his big wedding day...
FIDGET
FIDGET
Kage-tora...
.....
Can't you calm down?
You're like a bear in a cage.
Have more confi-dence.
But it's my first time...
Of course. It's not something you do many times.
Seriously, calm down.

Taka's right.
You're hardly a Toudou, acting like that.
GLOOM
ずしー
.....
Pressure
He pressures him even on his wedding day...
He's such a...
SLIDE
Oh! You really are nervous!
Ha ha ha
Just like Shirou said!
Sakuya...
You're enjoying this too much.
Come on! Let's go!
Yuki-chan's ready.
URGH
Stop putting pressure on me....
All of the Toudou family is here.

Kagetora...
Thank you.
Wow, Yuki-chan, you're so pretty!
Oh.
Yeah...
Tora! What are you doing?
PAT!
.....



Yes.
...Let's go.

.....
Dear...
SHING
SHING

She's not going away.
Kagetora is going to join the family.
I finally decide to work locally at the university, but she goes off and gets married...
Gee, I don't know if I'm happy or sad.
Please pull it together.
CRYING
You don't have to be sad because she's going to be happy.
BLOWING NOSE
My, my...
That's true, but a bride's father is so...
...sad...
Yes.
You are the man of the Toudou house.
Please stop crying before the reception.

Crystal Ballroom
Kazama-Toudou Wedding Reception
Here it is.
Oh!
Issei, over here.
Yeah.
Oh.
They're the first ones to marry...
I was surprised.
Hey, Kiritani, Kujou.
Long time, no see.
You guys are here, too.

Like her, at the reception desk!
She's pretty!
Please sign the guest book.
Ono! You can meet someone here!
Come on!
He just broke up with his girlfriend.
Marrying Yuki-chan!
I'm sooooo jealous!!
Why don't you get married, too?
I'm engaged.
You're so honest.
Congratulations
The reception is starting soon.
He recovers fast....
True...
And they're not listening to each other
Please sign here.
Hi, what's your name?

You're enjoying this, aren't you?
When it's so fancy, it makes you more nervous.

Are you still crying?
I can't stop.

YAY
Please welcome the bride and groom.

Wow...
But they still kept it small.
For Yuki's family.
It's a lot of people.

He didn't look good in a tux.
Why is Tora still wearing a kimono?
BLUNTLY
Yuki-chan's changed.
What a pretty bride.
The groom is totally nervous.
Dear...
Yeah.
MOVED
Kagetora-kun.
Please...
...take care of Yuki.

She's very dear to me.
So please...
...make her the happiest girl in the world.
Dad...
Takemi-dono.
I promise.

I will make...
...Yuki-dono happy.
I swear on my life.
Thank you.
Thank you...
Dad!

Thank you for coming today.
Every-one.
Master.
.....
SST
...to have a good time!!
GRIN
So...in the name of the Toudou family, I give you my permission...
It's a celebration.
Congratu-lations!
BANG!
Go For it!
YEAH!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

As if nothing happened.

What are they talking about?
Those two.
PAT!
I don't know...
You're marrying into her family? That must be...fun.
Ha ha ha あはは
Who're you to talk? If you marry Kiritani, she's going to boss you around.
Ha ha ha はは
She's tough
Yuki-chan! Can I shake your hand!?
You're so pretty!!
GRIP
GIGGLE GIGGLE
Sure.
Don't be so rude.
Huh?
You're having too much fun.
Huh?
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
I don't want to know.
I wonder how many ninjas are hiding around here.
GRAB!
!?

Ma'am.
SST
Are you drinking?
Oh, stay seated.
CHATTER
.....
CHATTER
Ha ha
If you say so.
Not really...
I guess we're going to be a little bit lonelier.
You probably have something to say, right?
Kureha's youngest is getting married.
Look, I know you're stern, but for today, be honest.
.....
Taka?
Yes.
I guess I can't win.
SST

Although you're very similar to him when he was younger.
!?
HEH
I think so, too.
He's a tough cookie, isn't he?
I wonder what Tenshu's going to say?
CLINK!
Hmm...
Hey, Kureha...
Similar to Father..
To Father...
Kagetora is no good.
Hime-sama.
Father?

He came over here to say that?
Father...
Uh... Tenshu-san?
.....
He is only half qualified...
...to be an oyakume ninja.
He cried a lot as a kid.
And he'd hide behind his mother all the time.
...Yuki-dono.
...who made him a man...
But it was you...
Father!!
What did you come to say?
And he wet his bed until he was...
...I believe...

...Kagetora became a man.
Because you were his "Hime"...
Right, Kagetora...?
Father...
I'm very thankful to you.
I'm sure my late wife, Kureha, is happy too.

Father...
Father...
BOW.
What!?
WHACK!
Father...
Yes!
Kagetora.
Good luck.

Was that part of the plan!?
Huh!?
Kagetora has something to say to all of you.
Master!!
Everyone.
.....
As you wish...
...how you feel right now.
Just say...
Everyone, thank you for coming today.
...I...
...always wanted to be an oyakume ninja.
How I feel...
.....

My brothers made fun of me...
urgh.
...but my mother believed I could do it.
That's why I was really happy when I became an oyakume ninja.
My friends saw me off as I left the village....
Yeah!
Good luck!
I came to Tokyo...
...and then...
...I met Hime.

The Hime I was supposed to protect as an oyakume ninja.
But I...
...fell in love with her at first sight.
Really?
Ninjas are not supposed to fall in love with their master.
I knew it, but I still couldn't stop myself.
From then on, every day was crazy.
A lot happened.
I was put in my place sometimes.

Kage-tora?
But...
.....
What did you do, Mother? Kagetora-kun, I'm sorry...
I wonder if he's talking about me.
...even if I was inexperi-enced...
...and didn't know how to live outside the village...
...it was everyone around me...
You have to learn all of this.
Good luck, Kagetora-kun...
EEP
...who watched over me.
We graduated!
That'd be embarrassing.
Don't come back crying.
So don't worry about us!
I'll take care of the Kazama house.

I'm here today...
...because of...
...everyone.
It's becau everyone.
BAWLING
...supported me.
Geez
TOUCHED
Thank you all very much...
...for everything!

I'm still inexperienced...
Yuki.
.....
...but I still...
...want you to stay with me.

Yes...
Hey, you two.
Over here!
Okay, ready?
I'm taking the picture.
Com-ing!
Hurry up!
Ha ha

CLICK
Oh! Uncle Shirou and Uncle Taka are there, too!
Yeah!
Is that Mother and Father?
That's right!

Daddy!
was surprised.
Nothing, Daddy.
FLINCH
ドキッ
What are you two doing?
...want to do some ninja training?
Since we're at the village...
TMP TMP...
Ha ha
Hurry up!
I want to do it, too!
Hey, that's not fair!
Yeah! I want to!
DASH
FLAP...
KYE...

☆The End☆

This ends KAGETORA.
The following short story is the beta version I wrote before we started the KAGETORA series.
It's horrible (laugh) but if you can enjoy it, that would be great
Kagetora is fine, but Yuki is pretty different... (face)

Segami

I am the beta version Yuki.
Hm. I don't look that different.
Maybe just the hair? (laugh)
Very different from the series.
ll, it is the ta version. (laugh)

I am a skilled ninja.
My name is Kagetora.
I'm here to serve my duty as an oyakume ninja....
SWISH
SWISH
What am I doing in Tokyo?
Toudou
I serve the Toudou household.
YES?
The oyakume duty is...
SWISH

KAGETORA
カゲトラ
WHACK!
#0 Kagetora Beta Version

Gotcha!!
SWING

ACK!
THUD!
I got you this time, Kagetora!!
TA-DA
I finally got a hit....
OH

I'm over here.
ROLL
Oh, it's a log!!
You still didn't get me, Hime.
Yes, my oyakume duty is...
JUMP
You have to attack before I switch out.
What? That's impossible.
TAP
...to be Hime, or Yuki-dono's...
...martial arts instructor!!
POUT
You're a ninja.
You can't be serious.
Her pouty face hasn't changed one bit....
HEH

Seven years ago
...I came here to serve as an oyakume ninja.
In accordance with our contract...
My name...
...is Kagetora.
It is a difficult duty, but please do your best.
Our contract with the Hoorai ninja clan assigns a skilled ninja to be our martial arts instructor.
Therefore, the master needs to be skilled in martial arts.
The Toudou family has thrived as a martial arts clan.
Your name is Kagetora?
Yes, ma'am!!
GLARE
And the future master Hime is where?
Your oyakume ninja, Kagetora, has arrived.
Yuki! Come in.

にこっ
SMILE
My name is Yuki.
Nice to meet you.
And I fell in love at first sight...
BLUSH
かあぁ
How... how cute!!
...Uh...
Time flies.
Kagetora, duck!
DASH
Yes, ma'am!
WHOOSH
JUMP
Conditioned reflex

Hi... Hime!!
WAKE UP
DASH
Uh...
I'm going to school!

Have fun...
GASP!
I mean...
TH-THUMP
You are the next master of the Toudou house....
NAG
NAG
Hime, please act a little more ladylike!
Then it doesn't matter.
Right?
TURN
URGH
That's true, but...
Manners are irrelevant.
Your duty is to instruct me in martial arts, right?
I hate it when you nag!
BLEH!

But I'm...
...not here just for that.
It is my duty to instruct her in the martial arts....
SIGH
I can't win with her....
TMP
TMP
I wonder...
...if she remembers?
WOOF
WOOF
The promise we made seven years ago...
SOB...
WOOF
WOOF!
What should I do...?
GRRRR
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
CREEP

THUNK
WOO...
THUNK
THUNK
Picking on Hime will not be tolerated!!
Kagetora!!
ZWISH
NOD NOD
Under-stand!?
Then scram!
WOOF
WOOF

Don't worry, Hime.
I'll always protect you.
!!
WAAAAH
I was so scared!!
...and protect me forever!
Then it's a promise! You'll stay with me...

It's...
...a promise!
Don't forget.
I won't.
I haven't forgotten it...
I'll protect you...
...forever...
But...
...I wonder how she feels about me.
My intentions are the same as they were seven years ago....

What should I do?
Kagetora...
TERR
No! It's the ocean!!
PANIC
あわ
Wha-what happened!?
If someone hurt you, then I'll go take them out!
...Uh...
There's no other ocean.
NOD
The one you swim in?
The ocean!? Then I'll go get the ocean...
What!?
はだ
HUH?
Uh... the ocean?
GRR!
I'm going to the beach with my school friends next week.
And... what's wrong with the ocean?

Hime!? Why...
Because...
That sure surprised me.
THUD
It's not good!!
You're going to the beach with your friends? That sounds fun.
I'm glad for you.
...swim!!
I can't...
...I didn't take much PE.
It's because I'm always gone, entering kendo tournaments.
Didn't you learn in school?
Well...
You taught me martial arts, but never swimming.
Oh? Really?
I guess I never saw you swim.

So I was excused from P.E.
I guess it's because your kendo skills are superb.
Of course.
I said that I'm good at swimming.
It's because I've been teaching you.
SATISFIED
Who cares if you can't swim?
I do!
Why?
You didn't want to admit you can't swim?
I see...
You were being a show-off?
It's because he said to me, "Of course you can swim, right?" It's hard to say no to that!

He's popular with the girls.
He's in my class.
Anzai-kun?
HM?
So why does it matter that he asked you?
And?
Popular!?
...it's not like you to lie.
But even still...
It's because... Anzai-kun asked me.
He thinks I'm good at sports.
And I didn't want to disappoint him.
It was embarrassing.
And what do you want me to do?
I see...
So I have to learn!!
IRRITATED
Anzai...
GRIP!
Anzai-kun is going, too!

TURN
I'm your martial arts instructor.
I don't teach swimming...
You're my instructor, right!?
I want you to teach me to swim before next week!!
Huh!?
ZIP
Urgh.....
Please?
SIGH
I guess the first thing is to get used to water...
Yay ♡
Then we can start training today!
Fine...
SIGH
I can't say no to her...

I was late because I was changing.
Why did you have to change?
SLIDE
Here I am.
Because we're training.
I always have to dress for the occasion!!
We have to dress for it!
HM
I see...
IF you say so.
Then we're ready.
First, you put your face in the water...
Okay!
DUNK
What!?
!?
SPLASH

Whoa...
SPLASH!
Come on!
TUG
GRAB
We can't train if we're not inside!
Why did you jump in!?
I said your face!
?
You have to get in, too!
GLURG
What are you...
Okay, what now, Kagetora?
SMILE

First, breathe in! Hold it!
BREATHE IN
STOP
NOD
ドキ
TH-THUMP
Uh, um...
And put your face in the water.
Yah!
SPLASH
...Hime!?
SILENCE
And take your face out, and repeat...
I'll do it with you, so please follow what I do.
I think it's dangerous for you to do it...
Okay.
Dangerous?
We're not practicing how to hold your breath!!!
WOOZY
PANIC
Are you okay!?

Okay! Get out!!
Phew!
SPLASH
GLURB
Breathe in, hold.
Then dive!
SPLASH
Okay, you're doing good.
Yeah!
Now do it again...
Kagetora?
What's wrong?
!!
FLINCH

SPLASH
Huh?
We're done training here!!
THUMP!
SLIDE
No buts!!
But...
PUSH
We'll continue in the room!! Go change!!
Go! Go!
PUSH
Sigh...
Hime is too careless sometimes....
I wish she'd be more cautious.
Although that's what makes her cute...
But still, I'm worried.
But in her daily life, it's like she's not thinking or something....
When she's fighting, she's not careless at all.
Geez...

We're training here?
Ugh!!
What...
Okay!
I'll work hard!!

This is the first time I've seen her in a bathing suit.
I didn't realize how much she'd developed...
Kagetora?
Your face is all red.
Are you okay?
SLIDE
What!?
Oh, it's nothing!
FLINCH
I can't look at her...
I need to concentrate on teaching!!
Shoot.
Actually, I sink.
Let's see.
Hime.
You can't swim at all?
I can move forward a little, but that's it.
I wonder why?
After that, I start sinking.
So basically you can't swim at all....
Okay.

What?
It's hard.
I keep messing up.
I understand it with my head, but my body won't listen.
So for the breast-stroke...
It's not that hard.
...you just have to imitate the movements of a frog.
I have an idea!
You can move me and teach my body.
I know!
Hmm
Your body...
I can see that.
Okay, I'm ready!
Huh!?

I guess I have to do it.
Yes.
Kagetora!
You promised you'd teach me!
But that's...
...not a good idea!
GRIP
Excuse me...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
Like this and this...
Oh! I get it!
PUSH
So you move your legs like this...
You kick the water.
And then?
WOOZY
Urgh...
I'm losing my mind...
WOOZY

ゴロン
ROLL
Okay, next is freestyle!
ぎょっ
WHOA!
Yeah! It's easier to understand.
Can you continue?
Teach you the same way?
Freestyle, right?
SIGH
Yup!
Why is she doing this to me?
Sigh
Kagetora?
?
It's pure torture...
CRYING
Continue...

But I think I'm getting the hang of it.
I think I can swim.
Tired already
Yeah!
I'm glad.
SLUMP
Phew, I'm tired.
I'm glad you're here.
Because you're...
THUMP..
Huh...

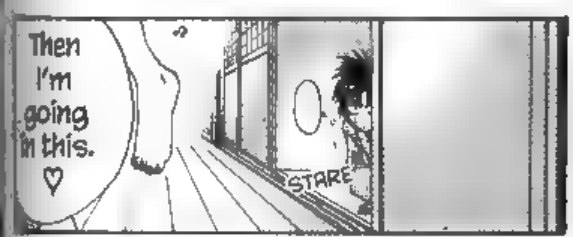
Big brother!?
SHOCK
...like a big brother. I can count on you!
SMILE
I'm just a big brother...
SIGH
...to Hime.
Why are you depressed?
I'm complimenting you.
SLUMP
It's nothing...
Okay, then we'll continue tomorrow.
Good night.

A week later
Kagetora.
TMP
Hee hee.
PEEK
Hime? What's wrong?
What!?
Look at this!
I'm wearing this today.
You're wearing that!?
It shows more than the other one!
Yeah, isn't it cute?
The store clerk recommended it to me.
I can swim now, too... so I'm all set!!
At the beach!?
That means...
DRIP
DRIP
The beach... there are so many perverted men out there.
Distorted View

...Urgh...I don't want that...
...all of them are going to see Hime like this!?
Odds and sods

Kagetora?
ふるふる
I can't believe it
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I had forgotten about that part!
Grrr...

Really?
I'm glad.
Of course you look good!


Then I'm going in this. ♡
STARE

I guess I have to...
URGH..

...Does it not look good on me?
Do I look weird?
!!

GRR
レスト
She looks happy...
Then I'm going.
No!
Nothing!
Is something wrong?
I'm going.
TMP
TMP
Shoot, did I show my disapproval that much?
I have to keep my promise, too!!
GLARE
She left...
Then...
.....

There're not that many people swimming.
Of course, this is the beach.
If they want to swim, they'll go to a pool.
Oh, that's true.
Ha ha
Wow, how pretty. ♡
I went through all that trouble...
I guess I didn't have to learn.
I completely forgot about that.
Anzai-kun.
Toudou-san, is this your first time at the beach?

!
TH-THUMP
That bathing suit looks good on you.
Hey.
BLUSH
Oh... thanks.
How embarrassing...
Hmph.
Over there.
If you can swim, you'll be fine.
I'll watch out for you, too.
Hey, let's ride a boat!
Uh... but...
Everyone else is just playing in the sand.

GRRR
Hime looks good in anything.
HMPH
"Looks good on you" blah blah blah.
I guess that's Anzai.
Maybe she prefers...
...going out with friends over training?
But Hime does look like she's having a good time.
They have rental everything.
They have rental boats?
...but I can't do that.
SIGH
I would like to shout it out loud...
I am just an oyakume ninja anyway...
...Er...
Being with friends...
...rather than being with me...
GIGGLE GIGGLE
Really?

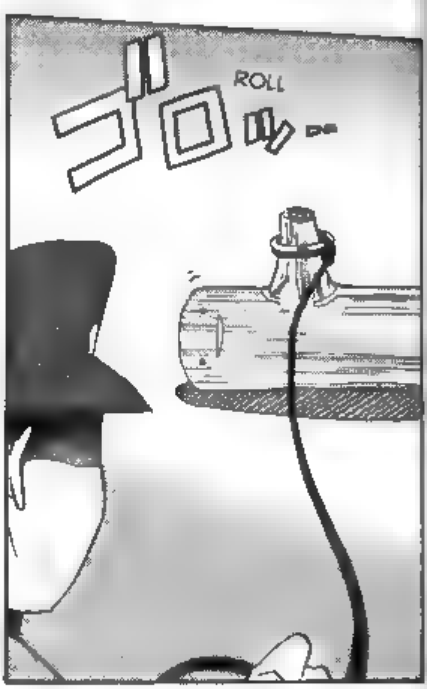
Do something.
I need to go after them...
I'm busy right now!
Hey, can you do something?
Like a move?
TUG TUG
Don't pull my clothing!!
HEY!
You're a ninja, right?
Wow, a real one!?
How cool.
BUZZ
BUZZ
Whoa!
It's a ninja!!
Is he cosplaying?
GASP
!
Grr...
IRRITATED
Ack!
STING
STING
Whoa!
FOO!
STING
Art of the ninja, "Blow Gun Triple Threat!"
Ow!
GLANCE
GLANCE
Huh!?
Where's Hime!?
I lost her!
It's only a tranquilizer.
BUZZ
TURN
My child!
Oh my gosh!! Ken-chan!!
Parent
FALLEN
They'll wake up in thirty minutes.

I caught the dangerous man...
What's this!?
BUZZ
BUZZ
CLANG
CLANG
Roger that.
Someone notified the police

Huh?
CLICK

TUG
You'll have to come with me, sir.
BING!

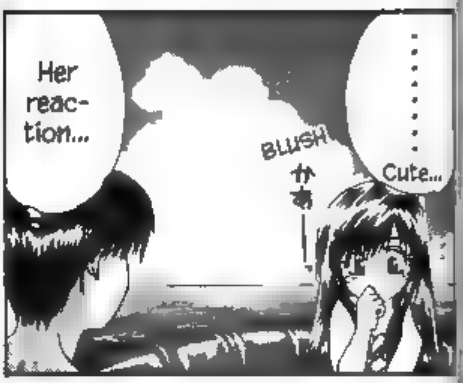
Yeah, right!!
DAAAAASH
Hey! Come back here!!


ROLL

Why are you interfering with my duty?
DAAAAAAAAAAASH
Come back here!
You're under arrest!!

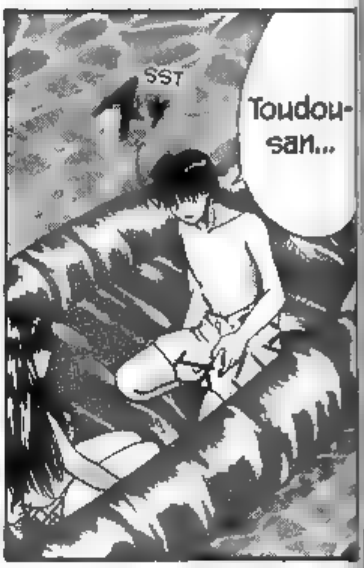
Please stay safe until I get there!!
Hime!!
KABOOM
Yah!
Smoke bomb!
Go away!
Whoa!?
Rick! Where'd you go!?
COUGH
SMOKE
COUGH
SMOKE
SPLASH
And...
So...
I always thought you were cute...
...but you're especially cute today.
That's... that's not true...
Huh?
You're a little different today.

I think I can go for it...
I've been looking for a chance for a while.
...Yeah, she's into me.


Her reaction...
BLUSH
.....
Cute...

すかっ
MISS
!?
DODGE
A jellyfish!
I've never seen one!
Whoa!
FLOAT
FLOAT

Oh!!


SST
Toudou-san...

Ah!
FALL
I want to see...
WOBBLE

What happened, Anzai-kun?
Nothing...
Jelly-fish, huh?

Really!?
FLOAT
FLOAT
Oh
There's another one here.
And it's pink.

...is my chance!!
!!
Ouch...
I tripped.
This...
ZIP
Toudou-san!!
Huh!?
What?
SPLAAAASH
Aaack!
Ah!
WOBBLE
!?
SPLAAASH
Oh!
Whoa.
The wave...
WHOOSH

Aaagghhhh!
Anzai-kun...
SPLASH
I don't know how to swim!!
GRAB
Please, help me!
You can swim, right!?
!!
How scary!
Huh!? You can't swim!?
Oh no...
Ahh! I'm going to die!
SPLASH SPLASH
Are you okay? I'm coming...
I'm glad I learned.

Oh no... my leg cramped up!
Toudou-san!?
Oh...
I don't want to drown, too!!
No way!!
Cough
Anzai-kun, help me...

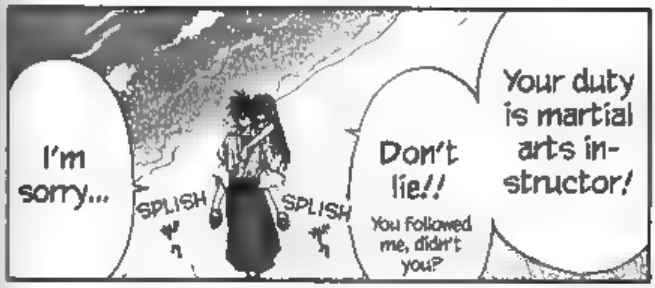
I can't breathe!!
GURG
Somebod...
GURG
GURG
Kage-tora!!
...Ugh...
THOP!
It's... it's not my fault, is it!?
Oh no...
Shoot...
WHOOOOOOSH
What the heck is happening!?
!!
Whoa!?
What!?
GLUMP

SPLASH
Oh...
GRAB
PHEW
A twister!?
VOOOOOOSH

Kagetora!?
Are you okay!?
Hime!
Huh?

You're safe now!
A ninja!?
GAPE
"ti"
I'm sorry I was late...
Kagetora...

I was so scared...
SNIFF SNIFF
Hi... Hime...
PANIC
オロオロ
PANIC
You're okay now, so...
Please stop crying.
SPLASH
Hey, Kagetora...
What is it?
Why were you here?
Did you follow me?


I'm sorry...
SPLISH
SPLISH
Don't lie!!
You followed me, didn't you?
Your duty is martial arts instructor!

Urg...
Shoot...
Oh... uh, I was...
...here as part of my duty....

SIGH
You came today because you were worried about me, right?
Err...
I knew it! You're too protective.
I'm not a kid anymore.

I'm not mad at you....
GIGGLE
I can't blame you for being mad.
You're right...

I know you're just keeping our promise.

Huh...
You'll stay with me...
and protect me forever.
Hime...
You remember our promise?
TMP
Of course I do.

We're going to stay together.
Right?
...Heh...
Yes!
Hime!
I'll never forget our promise!!
FIN

Final Bonus Page!

This is Segami. It's finally Volume 11!! It's the final volume for "KAGETORA!!" I finally reached the ending! Thank you for sticking with me.

...Tears of joy.

About ninjas, Part II

In the first volume, I wrote about why this manga became a ninja manga. But basically it was because of this formula:

Segami ➡ loves historical themes + editor ➡ good at romantic comedies

But I didn't think I'd ever hit eleven volumes. You never know what happens in life.

Thank you!

Thank you for all of the letters!!

I'm really, really happy. Responses are slow, but they are going out.

When I respond to a letter, it's like we're pen pals or something. (laugh)

I've answered some frequently asked questions.

⬅ Go to the next page!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the full names of Ono, Kamijou, and Ikoma?

A: Oops, I guess I never wrote them in the manga. (laugh) Sorry. Umm, it's "Hideaki Ono," "Hiroki Kamijou," and "Ryohei Ikoma."

Q: Is Grandma (Sagiri)'s husband a ninja?

A: Yes, he's a ninja. And he married into the Toudou family. (laugh)

Q: How did Yuki's parents meet?

A: Their houses were next door to each other and they were childhood friends.

There were other questions, but I'll leave them up to your imagination.

Well... KAGETORA finally reached its last volume. In the magazine, there was a countdown for the last three chapters . . . It was interesting, but it also reminded me that KAGETORA was almost over. It's been five years (including the beta version), and a lot has happened. I've moved twice. I traveled and did research . . . many times. (laugh) There were so many hectic deadlines . . . But I was still able to do this, thanks to everybody!! KAGETORA was something I never could've done without the help of others. For me, someone who's bad at romantic comedies (laugh), to reach eleven volumes is a miracle! Although I was really worried at first . . . slowly the characters started to develop and grow and move on their own (even if they went overboard sometimes). I feel like I grew with the characters . . . and so I was able to reach the happy final chapter.

Maybe it's a cliché, but I think love stories should end happily!

So with that in mind, I drew the final chapter. I didn't think I could draw a wedding . . . but I'm happy I was able to end it like this. If the readers are satisfied, then I'll be the happiest manga artist in the world.

KAGETORA is over, but I hope I can draw an even better series in the future!!

To everyone involved in making KAGETORA and to all the readers who stayed with me until the end, I give my thanks and appreciation.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

And please continue to root for me!!

2006. 瀬上友紀

SpecialThanks

Assistants: Ryoji Tanaka, Mayumi Oshima, Atsuko Takasou, Makoto Nishikawa, everyone else who helped
Editors: Makoto Morita, Masayuki Yonemura
My family, cat, friends, etc . . . .
And all of the readers!!

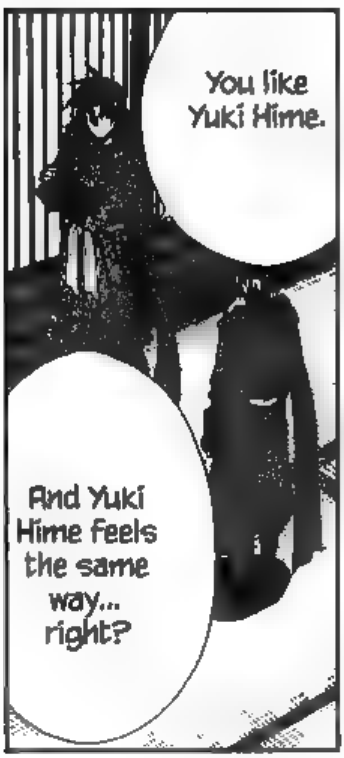
Then...let's see each other in my next series.

About the Author

Akira Segami's first manga was published by Shogakukan in 1996. He went on to do a few other small projects, including two short stories entitled "Kagetora" in 2001 and 2002. The character proved to be popular with fans, so Segami began his first ongoing series, *Kagetora,* with Kodansha in 2003. The series concluded with volume 11.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



***Hime*, page 8**

The literal translation of the word *hime* is "princess" in Japanese. *Hime* can also be used as an honorific for a daughter of a high-class family. Generally, Kagetora refers to Yuki as a *hime*, as she's the daughter of a respected master of the martial arts, and from an honorable family. But in this panel, Shirou is specifically calling her Princess Yuki.

***Kunoichi*, page 13**

A *kunoichi* refers to a female ninja. Historically, *kunoichi* were trained in deception and seduction, designed to seduce men with political power. They were often disguised as dancers, geisha, and prostitutes. But in modern terminology, a *kunoichi* is simply a female ninja, trained in ninjutsu like their male counterparts.

***Oyakume*, page 52**

Oyakume translates as "a duty." Its use in this book is more formal, suggesting a specific and honored duty.

Ema, page 68

Ema are wooden blocks found in shrines. They have a picture of a horse on them. Visitors to the shrine can buy an *ema* and write a wish or prayer on it and hang it at the shrine.

List of singers, page 98

Kobukuro is a duo of two male singers. They sing folk songs for the most part. They met while both were street musicians.

Angela Aki is a singer and songwriter. She grew up in the United States but decided to go back to Japan to pursue her music career. She is probably best known for her song "This Love" featured in "BLOOD+" anime, and "Kiss Me Good-bye" featured in the video game Final Fantasy XII.

Lyrico is a singer who was formerly known as Harumi Tsuyuzaki. After she married, she changed her name to Lyrico.

Emiko Shiratori is a singer, known for her great soprano voice. She covered "Amazing Grace" in 1987, which is one of the reasons why the song is well known in Japan. Among young people, she is best known for her song "Melodies of Life," which was featured in the video game Final Fantasy IX.

Kendo, page 149
Kendo, the way of the sword, is the art of Japanese swordsmanship and is similar to fencing. People use bamboo swords and wear protective gear. Its origin comes from *Budo*, the Martial way. *Kendo* is one of the most popular sports taught at Japanese schools, along with Judo.

Cosplay, page 172
Cosplay is short for Costume Play. Cosplay means dressing up as a character from manga, anime, and/or video games.

OVER TOO SOON?

Kagetora has finally won the heart of Yuki, his master's daughter. Since their love is forbidden, they've kept it secret. But now it's all coming apart. Having declared Yuki's martial arts training complete, Yuki's mother has ordered Kagetora to go home. Will his duty as a ninja put an end to a love that took years to build? Find out in this **final volume!**

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